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## WHICH WAS THE MADMAN?

The late Dr. Brice de Boismont had some forty years' experience of the most famous of Parisian mad-houses, and he was a friend of all the articles and literary tributes of his time, who died with him frequently, he later often for the purpose of making studies of the various stages and sorts of insanity. One day an amusing discussion took place between the doctor and a rich banker, who held that madness could be easily detected, even by a non-expert.

"On the contrary," said the doctor, "I have a dozen patients in my keeping who, outside of their pet idea, are as sane and sensible as you, or at least seem to be as sane and sensible as you are. I will make a wager that I will introduce you to a small dinner-party at which one of my guests will be one of my most hopeless cases, and that you will pass the evening without discovering him."

"Done," said the banker; and the dinner was set for the next Monday night. When the party was about to break up, the doctor approached the banker, and asked, with a smile:

"Well, did you discover the madman?"

"Discover?" echoed the banker, with a contemptuous curl of the lip. "Why, I picked him out before we had been at the table five minutes—the man on your left! Anyone could do it after hearing him talk about his chimerical enterprises, which were to yield him fabulous sums. Mad as a March hare! I could not help remarking as much to the gentleman who sat beside me."

"Which one?"

"The one on my left—a very quiet, gentlemanly, well-informed man, too. Who was he?"

"Oh, he was the madman! The gentleman on my left was the novelist Honoré de Balzac!"

## A TARTAR'S COURTSHIP.

"What do you pay in your country for a wife?" asked a Tartar of an Englishman.

"We pay nothing. We ask the girl, and if she says yes, and her parents do not refuse, we marry her."

"But if the girl does not like you? If she hits you on the head with her whip, or gallops away when you ride up to her side," replied the Tartar, referring to his nation's method of courtship by running after a girl on horseback; "what do you do in that case?"

"Why, we do not marry her."

"But if you want to marry her very much; if you love her more than your best horse and all your sheep and camels put together?" the Tartar persisted, putting an extreme case for the sake of argument.

"We cannot marry her without her consent."

"And are the girls moon-faced?" he continued, setting forth a Tartar's perfection of female beauty.

"Some are," said the Englishman.

For a few moments the Tartar seemed lost in meditation. Presently, removing his sheepskin hat and rubbing his shaven head, he asked:

"Will you take me to your country? It would be so nice. I should get a moon-faced wife, and all for nothing. Why, she would not cost me so much as a sheep!"

"But suppose she would not have you?" "Not have me!" and the Tartar looked astonished. "Not have me! Well, I should give her a white wrapper or a ring for her ears of her nose."

"And if she still refused you?"

"Why, I should give her a gold ornament for her head, and what girl could resist such a present?"

## A FRIEND IN NEED.

A great deal of money that might be well spent is every day misapplied. And this is not only by those who selfishly waste it all on themselves, but by well-meaning people who give away money thoughtlessly without first finding whether or not their charity is really required or deserved. This, however, was not all the case in the following: A poor girl with beautiful hair went to a barber to get it cut. He tried to make a close bargain, saying hair was plentiful this year, and declared he could give her only eight florins. The little maiden's eyes filled with tears, and she hesitated a moment while she was threading her fingers through her chestnut locks. Finally she said:

"Then take it quickly."

The barber was about to cut off the tresses when a gentleman sitting on one of the chairs interrupted him, and spoke to the girl.

"My child," said he, "why do you sell your beautiful hair?"

"My mother has been nearly five months ill. I cannot work hard enough to support us. Everything has been sold or pawned, and there is not a penny in the house."

"No, no, my child; if that is the case I will buy your hair, and give you one hundred florins for it."

He gave the poor child the note, the sight of which dried her tears, and he took up the barber's shears. Taking the locks in his hand, he selected the longest hair, cut it off, and put it carefully in his pocket-book, thus paying one hundred florins for a single hair. He took the poor girl's address, in case she should want to buy another at the same rate.

## WARM HEARTS UNDER RAGGED JACKETS.

Warm hearts are sometimes found under ragged jackets, as shown by the following incident: A kit is a box of tools or whatever outfit is needed in a particular branch of business.

It surprised the shiners and newsgars around the postoffice the other day to see "Little Tim" coming among them in a quiet way, and hear him say: "Boys, I want to sell my kit. Here's two brushes, a ball box of blacking, a good stout box, and the outfit goes for two shillings."

"Goin' away, Tim?" queried one.

"Not 'actly, boys, but I want a quarter the awfulest kind just now."

"Goin' on 'akursion?" asked another.

"Not to-day, but I must have a quarter," he answered.

One of the lads passed over the change, and took the kit, and Tim walked straight to the counting-room of a daily paper, put

## down his money and said: "I guess I kin write if you give me a pencil."

With slow-moving fingers he wrote a death notice. It went into the paper almost as he wrote it, but you might not have seen it. He wrote:

"Died—Linn Ted—of scarlet fever, aged three years. Funeral to-morrow, gone up to Heaven, left word broken."

"Was it your brother?" asked the cashier.

Tim tried to brace up, but he couldn't. The big tears came up, his chin quivered, and he pointed to the counter and gasped:

"I—I had to sell my kit to do it, b—but he had his arms around my neck when he died."

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## CARPETS AND FURNITURE.

## GRAND SPRING OPENING.

MARKET ST. TO CAMPBELL ST.

## A. H. Van Horn,

73 MARKET ST.

NEWARK.

Business having increased so much during the past year we have been obliged to connect our store with the factory on Campbell St., making the store two hundred feet deep, consisting of four floors, aggregating 16,000 square feet, making the largest concern in the State, without exception, with elevator connecting all floors.